

# NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

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MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

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@THEMISSOURIAN



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Linda Kirsch receives her first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 26 at the mass vaccination clinic in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville, the Nodaway County Health Department and the University partnered to host the event where close to 700 people were vaccinated.

## 700 residents receive COVID vaccine

MADELINE MAPES  
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

The first of many coronavirus vaccines have been administered to Phase 1A qualifiers of the Missouri COVID-19 vaccine availability plan in Nodaway County.

Nodaway County Health Department Administrator Tom Patterson delved into what the vaccine means for Nodaway County and the University.

Patterson said as of Jan. 8, the NCHD had administered 100 vaccines to patient-facing healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents and staff. In addition, as of Jan. 5, 215 caregivers at Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville have received the vaccine, according to the hospital's Community Relations Manager Rita Miller. More vaccinations are scheduled for this week including some second doses.

Although the administration of COVID-19 vaccines is a glimmer of light at the seemingly never ending tunnel that is the pandemic, Patterson said the vaccine's work will most likely not reflect in the number of cases until a few weeks after people start receiving their second dose.

According to the Nodaway County COVID-19 Data dashboard, as of Jan. 12, the seven-day rolling average is seven cases, which is part of a small decrease in cases since Jan. 6, with 17 cases. As of Jan. 12, there are 76 cases in Nodaway County. Patterson said this small decrease does not reflect any changes made by the administration of the vaccine to Phase 1a of the first tier.

"We are asking people to be pa-

tient and keep an eye on or listen to local news," Patterson said.

He suggested keeping up with local news outlets for vaccine availability and noted that the tier system for administering vaccines is controlled by the state and federal governments.

According to a Springfield News-Leader article, most of the general public will not begin to receive the first doses of coronavirus vaccines for at least a few months. The article stated that the

state's health director, Dr. Randall Williams said most people should hopefully be able to be vaccinated by July of this year.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said 14 Northwest employees, including Wellness Services workers and athletic trainers, have been vaccinated. Later this week Northwest is expecting to receive further plans from the state regarding the distribution of vaccines to help the University begin

to structure its own plans to vaccinate staff and students.

"We're beginning to plan, but there are a lot of unknowns right now," Baker said.

Baker noted that Wellness Services is still waiting to hear from the state if they can be an administrator of vaccines.

He said the University has begun discussions on who the first people to receive vaccines would be if Wellness Services is approved to administer them.

Baker explained that this new plan, which the University hopes to receive this week, will include guidelines that are different from the current ones the state has laid out for whom to administer the vaccine to first.

Baker noted that Wellness Services is still waiting to hear from the state if they can be an administrator of vaccines.

He said the University has begun discussions on who the first people to receive vaccines would be if Wellness Services is approved to administer them.

SEE COVID-19 | A4

## New ag building sets sight on June opening

WESLEY MILLER  
News Reporter | @wesleymiller360

Northwest's new agriculture building is scheduled to be finished in early June.

The 29,000 square-foot building will hold two classrooms, five laboratories, a processing kitchen, offices and an exposition.

Director of the School of Agricultural Sciences Rod Barr said the facility will be called the "Agricultural Learning Center," but the laboratories have been named after donors of the project.

Barr said getting to this point has been a bit of a long journey.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Kyle Vulgamott cuts through a beam of steel during construction at the new Agriculture Learning Center. The University broke ground on the new building last spring with hopes it will be completed by June 2021.

The original idea for the facility was made over 30 years ago. Thirteen years ago, the University started looking at other facilities, such as the Litton Center in Chillicothe, Missouri, for inspiration.

Just a few years after that, Barr said decision-makers at Northwest's School of Agriculture were asked by the Northwest provost at that time, Doug Durham, what their biggest need was and the answer was "academic space at the farm."

Last spring, the University offi-

cially broke ground on the project. Now, construction for the center is well underway, and in just over five months, it will be completed.

The building cost \$11.4 million to construct, but thanks to funding from the University, Missouri state legislature and funding from the Northwest Foundation, including a \$500,000 donation from Northwest Foundation Board of Directors member John Cline, it will be covered.

SEE AGRICULTURE | A4

## City extends mask mandate, plans for new water plant

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | @cafeekc

The first ordinance Maryville's City Council passed in 2021 was an intent to build a new water treatment plant — the second to extend the local face covering mandate until 11:59 p.m. April 30.

The City Council was split on opinions to extend the mask mandate this time, and the vote resulted in a 3-2 decision with councilman Jason McDowell and Mayor Ben Lipiec voting no.

A public hearing regarding the face covering ordinance preceded the Jan. 25 meeting, where fewer people wanted to talk than previous meetings where a public hearing was not an option. Citizens were given two minutes to speak on the subject. Four people spoke up.

Thirty minutes later, after a presentation from HDR Engineering on water treatment alternatives, City Manager Greg McDanel read opinions from local health officials. Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville, Northwest and others all supported an extension of requiring face coverings. At the meeting, the City Council heard from Tom Patterson, the director of Nodaway County's health department.

### COVID-19

"We're focused on vaccines now. We're not going backwards," Patterson said. "We're not asking anybody to do anything more; we're just asking everyone to hold on a little longer."

SEE CITY COUNCIL | A4

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# CARES Act funds aid local entities

**MADELINE MAPES**  
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

The distribution of \$2.3 million from the CARES Act of the Coronavirus Relief Fund has aided local businesses, churches and other entities around Nodaway County.

Nodaway County Collector-Treasurer Marilyn Jenkins said the money was used to buy supplies and other items for local entities.

Jenkins explained that the funds the county received from the U.S. government had to be spent on items that would supplement businesses affected by the coronavirus.

"Me and my office, we bought, in quantity, masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, wipes, cleaners," Jenkins said.

She explained that if anyone in the county is in need of any mitigation items, they should call her office and she will distribute the items as needed.

In a document from Jenkins, the Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, the requirements to receive funds are laid out by the federal government.

The U.S. government requires that the funds be used to supplement any unforeseen expenditures incurred because of the pandemic. The document also states that the funds can cover costs of items that were not budgeted by the enactment date of the CARES Act, which was March 27, 2020. Lastly, to receive funds, it is required that these costs be incurred from March 1, 2020 to Dec. 30, 2020.

Jenkins broke down the purchases made with the funds into categories. The coronavirus mitigation items were labeled as office sup-

plies. The county spent \$110,063.98 in aid on office supplies.

The office supplies were bought for everyone in the county, including local schools.

Jenkins said the county held meetings with superintendents of local schools in July to see how the CARES Act funds could be used to help the schools. The superintendents gave the county some ideas of different kinds of supplies they would need. From there, Jenkins noted the county took the top five things the schools would need when school started and made the purchases and distributed the items.

"As a county we decided to do supplies for schools," Jenkins said. "That was one of the first meetings we had."

Equipment, including UV lights, water coolers, handheld sprayers and purifiers, were purchased for the schools along with COVID-19 mitigation supplies. The county spent \$287,093.47 in aid on equipment.

The county also allocated \$5,799.10 of the aid to Northwest's University Police Department under material costs. The funds for UPD went toward the digging of new fiber lines to provide better signal for 911 calls made to the department.

Nodaway County also received reimbursements for COVID-19 related purchases in two forms: COVID-19 taxing entity reimbursements, which totalled \$1.1 million and the COVID-19 Civic Organization Grant, which totalled \$33,898.88.

Jenkins said the county provided some local businesses with COVID-19 Small Business Re-

lief Grants, which provided eligible businesses up to \$5,000 to put toward things such as utility bills or other expenditures accumulated throughout the pandemic. The county spent a total of \$798,722.41 on small business grants.

Jenkins noted that anyone who wanted to receive funds had to fill out an application, which was created and reviewed by the county along with the Nodaway County Economic Development Corporation.

These applications were used to guide the county in deciding if what the entity asked for was within the guidelines provided by the U.S. government.

Jenkins said she, along with other members of the county, were looking to help the community in any way they could. She said some businesses are up to \$50,000 to \$60,000 worth of loss and needed some form of assistance.

"We (the county) had to set some kind of guidelines and a dollar amount," Jenkins said. "We just stayed with \$5,000. We know that wasn't enough to cover their losses, but we wanted to help more people."

Executive Director of Nodaway County Economic Development Josh McKim said he was one of the people who helped handle applications for the Small Business Relief Grants.

"I was very impressed with the county's leadership and willingness to create a grant program for small businesses that's out of the box in many ways," McKim said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## CARES ACT - MONEY DISTRIBUTION

### TAXING ENTITY REIMBURSEMENT

**\$1,119,595.31**

### CIVIC ORGANIZATION GRANT

**\$33,898.88**

### EQUIPMENT UV

**\$287,093.47**

### MATERIAL COSTS

**\$5,799.10**

### OFFICE SUPPLIES

**\$110,063.98**

### CONTRACT COSTS

**\$43,873.00**

### SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT

**\$798,722.41**

MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN

## Mosaic battles staffing shortages amid pandemic

**SIDNEY LOWRY**  
News Reporter | @sidney\_lowry

For nearly a year, healthcare workers have been pushed to their limits when trying to work through a large volume of patients amid a pandemic.

There is no exception when it comes to Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville. With the two physicians that retired in December and others leaving in the past year, there has been an effort to disperse and absorb patients when caretakers either retire or leave the hospital.

Nate Blackford, president of Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville, said that though there are people leaving, it is no different than the amount they would see despite the pandemic. Thus far, the hospital has had no problems replacing people when needed.

When it comes to replacing the two physicians that left last month, the plan is to disperse their patients to other healthcare professionals in the building.

"We have multiple locations, so we were able to shift some people around," Blackford said. "In this situation, we are going to proceed with the current staff we have, and we think we can meet the demands of our patients."

Blackford also said Mosaic doesn't plan to fill either of those positions anytime soon.

The hospital has a monthly evaluation, sometimes more often, to



A nurse from Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville vaccinates a community member at the mass vaccination clinic in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse Jan. 26. The vaccines arrived in the county when there were 52 active cases of COVID-19, eight of which were University cases.

see if there is a need for more staff to meet the flow of patients coming in the door. Though there has been a higher demand for doctors and nurses worldwide, that also comes with a staffing shortage. Blackford

said this is a problem that Mosaic has been able to work around.

"Our staff has every reason in the world to be tired, worn out and weary," Blackford said. "Their commitment has been to the care of the patients and feel like it's their life's calling. Because of that, they feel like now is the time they

get to demonstrate their commitment and resiliency."

He also explained that sometimes they may have up to 15 healthcare workers out at a time because of COVID-19. With the new vaccine administered to about 70% of caregivers at Mosaic - Maryville, they are hoping to see a safer envi-

ronment to care for patients in.

As of Jan. 21, the hospital had three inpatients in for COVID-19 and two staff members out due to the virus. They also said they have dispensed 400 doses of the vaccine primarily to caregivers by following the state of Missouri phase and tier distribution.

After Maryville was moved to Tier 1 and 2 of Phase 1B, there was a mass vaccination event on Jan. 26 at Northwest in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. People were asked to register by calling the health department or fill out a form on their Facebook page.

"I believe the vaccine is our best hope for addressing COVID-19, and the sooner we can get our frontline caregivers vaccinated, the quicker they can see their patients and minimize their own risk," Blackford said.

Though the vaccine is being given out to caretakers, working through the pandemic is still tough mentally and physically. Blackford said they are still seeing high patient volumes, but are able to take care of the community with the staff they have right now.

"Our team has done whatever they need to do to ensure that our patients are still able to receive the care they need despite COVID," Blackford said. "I'm very proud of our team for the way they've rallied."

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# UPD adds 300 cameras to aid security

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor I @calfee\_kc

Northwest has been working to obtain more security cameras around campus for years as a way to fill gaps in the University's ability to track potential crime.

In November 2020, this vision for enhanced security became a reality as the University Police Department worked with the Facilities Capital Management Team to begin the installation of cameras in areas that needed them.

When the project is finished, approximately 300 security cameras will be located in entry and exit points of facilities across campus, with a focus on residence hall building entrances and other key areas that UPD is still contemplating.

Chief of UPD Clarence Green said the need for additional cameras stems from the institution as a whole recognizing ways to further campus safety.

"We're trying to get caught up with our security measures," Green said. "We will have some additional capabilities of recording key areas. Along with our preventative patrol, we feel this will enhance campus security."

Green also said the University has received survey feedback in the last couple years referencing campus outdoor lighting as an issue. He said Northwest took a healthy effort this past fall to improve lighting in areas of concern, like in front of Wells Hall, where a tall, brighter light was installed.

In similarly dark areas across campus, UPD has put a focus on addressing ways to lighten paths people walk on. In reference to survey results, UPD met with Facility Services to see what exactly needed to be done.

Both departments saw that replacing old poles and putting in



**A student exits the University Police Department headquarters Jan. 27. UPD and Northwest's Facilities Capital Management Team are working to install roughly 300 security cameras at entry and exit points across campus.**

LED lights would provide a brighter, energy efficient solution to darkened areas.

"It's not really adding a lot of new lighting. ... It's about changing the fixture," Green said.

The new security cameras will rarely be monitored live, Green said, but rather used to go back and pull information for detection purposes. UPD will be trained on

how to use the new security camera system by March, and the system is expected to be fully operational by fall 2021.

Resident Director Jacob Wood serves as his department's liaison to the UPD. He oversees South and North Complex, student conducts that happen in facilities, works with student staff and ensures all other management of the buildings are taken care of.

He said the new cameras will be a great benefit to residence hall directors when dealing with student conduct meetings and tracking situations where people shouldn't be in the residence halls.

"We can easily see when they

came into the building, left the building ... and they're also positioned by the vending machines which will be nice," Wood said.

There have been instances where the wrong people use Bearcat cards to make purchases at vending machines around campus. Now, cameras are positioned near them to combat this issue, Wood explained.

Wood also said having the cameras provides an extra sense of security since before, the residence halls had to rely and trust in the

key fob system. While mostly effective, Wood noted that some students would hold the door for others, which can create problems.

"It's really beneficial that we have every single entry and exit to our facilities covered," Wood said. "We do have RA staff who make rounds in the building to make sure things are secure, but this is going to be that extra level of protection we didn't have before."

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## International students grapple with travel bans, visa issues

SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Reporter I @sidney\_lowry

As the majority of Northwest students went back to their homes during winter break, international students struggled with planning their trips home due to travel advisories, visa restrictions and quarantining.

When it comes to letting stu-

dents go home, Assistant Director of the International Involvement Center Erika Lees said Northwest follows Centers for Disease Control guidelines and Department of State travel advisories.

"International students were able to go home over break if travel between the U.S. and their home country was allowed, but were required to self-isolate when they returned to the U.S.," Lees said.

For students who did end up traveling to their home country, they were asked to follow CDC guidelines. Northwest asks students who traveled back to their home countries to test for COVID-19 within three to five days after coming back to school. On top of testing, they are asked to self-isolate for seven days after they have traveled, even if they have tested negative.

Though there are no Universi-

ty-specific restrictions, travel bans were one of the deciding factors of whether students can come in and out of the country. Graduate student Abha Niraula said this was the reason she couldn't go home to Nepal after graduating in spring 2020.

"I was planning on going home right after my senior year, but the borders were closed," Niraula said. "Now, my visa expires in August, but I am allowed to stay here until I finish my education. If my visa expires and I leave, that means I can't come back on the same visa I left with."

Director of the International Involvement Center Philip Hull said that not getting approved for a visa or not being able to renew it was something that some international students encountered when trying to study abroad at Northwest.

"We did have some students — a number from Nigeria, for exam-



**Graduate student Abha Niraula stands with Hope Dudusola and Talitha Santana Baez before the Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony.**

nials were COVID-19 related, but some students were not allowed to come to Northwest because of it.

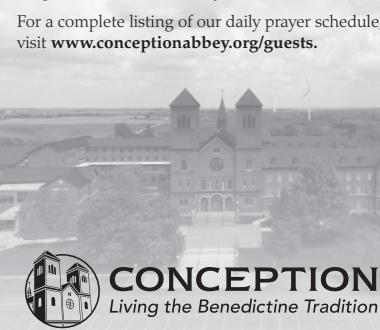
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# CRIME LOG

for the week of Jan. 28

## Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

### Jan. 20

There are five closed investigations for liquor law violations in Hudson Hall.

### Jan. 21

There is an open investigation for property damage at Lot 42.

### Jan. 22

There are two closed investigations for drug law violations at College Avenue.

There are nine closed investigations for liquor law violations in Hudson Hall.

### Jan. 23

There is a closed investigation for a liquor law violation in Dieterich Hall.

### Jan. 24

There is a closed investigation for a terrorist threat in Perrin Hall.

## Maryville Department of Public Safety

### Jan. 20

There is an ongoing investigation for disorderly conduct on the 200 Block of West 12th Street.

There was an accident on the 1700 Block of North Grand Street between **Macey L. Ward**, of Jamesport, Missouri, and an unknown driver.

### Jan. 22

A summons was issued to **Richard R. Mace**, 54, for a city code violation on the 700 Block of Franklin place.

A summons was issued to **Jackson R. Anderson**, 18, of Omaha, Nebraska, for Driving While Intoxicated, Minor In Possession, open container in a motor vehicle, possession of a fake I.D. and an equipment violation on the 400 Block of West 1st Street.

A summons was issued to **Khalil R. Parker**, 28, for possession of marijuana and giving false information to a protective services officer on the 200 Block of West 1st Street.

There was an accident between **Cheyenne S.M. Hellebust**, 21, and **Sage N. Beers**, 20, of Syracuse, Nebraska. A citation was issued to Beers for careless and imprudent driving.

There was an accident between **Theresa A. Keever**, of Skidmore, Missouri, and an unknown driver.

### Jan. 23

A summons was issued to **Elizabeth E. McNamara**, 19, for Driving While Intoxicated, failure to maintain the right half of the road and speeding on the 100 Block South Walnut Street.

A summons was issued to **Chase M. Reynolds**, 19, of Maitland, Missouri, for excessive acceleration and displaying the plate of another vehicle.

### Jan. 24

A summons was issued to **Grace A. Gardner**, 19, for careless and imprudent driving on the 900 Block of South Main Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 300 Block of Volunteer Avenue.

There is an ongoing investigation for disorderly conduct on the 1200 Block of South Main Street.

**Malinda M. Prangle**, 61, of Barnard, Missouri, was involved in an accident on the 100 Block of West 1st Street.

## COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM A1

Baker explained that this new plan, which the University hopes to receive this week, will include guidelines that are different from the current ones the state has laid out for whom to administer the vaccine to first.

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## AGRICULTURE

CONTINUED FROM A1

Barr said the day Northwest received its final donation from Cline is one he'll never forget.

"It means so much for a former Bearcat to help current Bearcats," Barr said.

Barr took former faculty out to the facility and said it was really special to be able to show them where they're at right now.

"They're the ones who laid the foundation for the department of agriculture sciences and for the facility," Barr said.

Ryan Talkington, agriculture admissions representative, said that the building being completely funded just shows how much work the people in charge of the fundraisers did.

"They're good at their jobs, and having the building completely funded is huge," Talkington said.

Ryan Shurvington, a junior agriculture department ambassador, said

he is excited, and he knows students and professors alike are too.

From an admissions standpoint, Talkington said he's thrilled about it and that the potential for the building is huge.

For a campus the size of Northwest, there aren't many facilities like it, and Talkington said it will be a great opportunity for incoming students and students already on campus. He said he thinks they will be able to bring in more students not just because of the facility, but also because of the state-of-the-art technology it will have.

Shurvington said he thinks it will increase Northwest's enrollment, and not just for the agricultural department.

"...I know having a facility like that and being able to show people that it's not something a lot of universities have," Shurvington said.

Shurvington thinks it will show students they have opportunities to get involved and even further solidify Northwest as being known for its

"hands-on" learning.

Shurvington said he thinks the facility will give the agriculture side of campus a better identity.

"With that brand new sign they have there, it creates a better known environment for the farm," Shurvington said. "Unless you knew before that it was the University farm, you would have never known that it was part of the University, and now you can definitely see it is part of campus."

Barr agreed with Shurvington and said the facility will bridge the gap between that side of campus and the rest.

The facility is designed to not only be a benefit for the agricultural sciences classes, but for the whole University. The exposition center is 8,500 square feet and can seat 350 people, which can be used for other departments on campus as well for meetings or any other large event. That space can also be used for community events.

Talkington said as far as a banquet setting, it's going to seat more

than most other places in this area. He also said that there are talks of interactive screens in the hallways about the facility and what happens in there, which would create an opportunity to work with design and art majors to design how they look and work.

"With that exposition space, it's going to allow us to do things with the University that we haven't been able to yet," Barr said. "Just because it is the Ag center doesn't mean the communication and media department can't find a way to use it."

Barr said he believes that's where the imagination soars, and he hopes that the facility will be a benefit to everybody.

As of right now, Barr said they aren't planning on events for when the facility does open besides internal ones, and that it's really about making sure it's ready for August when school starts up.

It's been 50 years this year since Northwest obtained the farm, and Barr said he believes opening the new facility will be the perfect celebration.



Roberta Hall is home to Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Phi Mu, Sigma Kappa and Sigma Sigma Sigma sororities. Meanwhile, seven fraternities have their own houses off campus.

## The 'brothel rumor' is not true

HAILEY MACH  
News Reporter I @haileymach98

Driving through and around Northwest's campus, it's no surprise that the mansions with big Greek letters catch a passerby's attention.

These massive buildings, though, only house members of fraternities. All of the University's sororities share a suite-style dormitory, Roberta Hall.

Northwest Greek life has been around since 1927. There are 17 active Greek organizations on campus. Each Greek organization has unique beliefs and values that they stand for.

For many years, rumors in the Greek community say that the University is not allowed to have soror-

ity houses because any house that has anywhere between three and six women is considered to be a brothel under Maryville laws. Questions of where and when this rumor sparked are still up in the air.

"There has been an urban legend since I started 28 years ago that three — or five depending on the source — unrelated women can't live off campus because it would be considered a brothel in Maryville," Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said.

Baker said that there is no University policy that prevents sororities from obtaining their own house.

"I have no idea if that has ever been a law, but I spoke with the city manager about four years ago to

confirm this is not an ordinance, and he did confirm that it is not," Baker said. "It has not been true in the past 30 years. One-hundred years ago? Who knows."

For Panhellenic organizations, rules for housing are made at the national level.

The decision to build a sorority house off campus would have to be unanimous and cemented by each chapter on the campus.

Northwest Alpha Delta Pi President Molly Cowan said that the brothel rumor was the reason she believed the University to not have sorority houses.

"I do slightly envy those bigger schools, those bigger houses," Cowan said. "It would be so special."

of an issue that local governments are facing nationwide.

Councilman Tye Parsons made a Facebook post Jan. 25 following the meeting that explained his "yes" vote that night.

"My vote... was based in science, fact, and most importantly by information from federal and local public health officials," Parsons' post read. "I voted to extend because it supports the efforts of Northwest Missouri State University — a key economic driver to our community and our region — to remain in class, in person, safely."

The ordinance mandates that all people five years old and older in Maryville wear a face covering when inside public facilities or businesses open to the public, public transportation vehicles and outside when at least six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

Enforcement of the face covering mandate is focused on educating and promoting COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Enforcement of the mandate is administered by first educating offenders of the mandate to achieve compliance, followed by a warning and a civil citation if necessary.

Individuals issued citations for violating the ordinance remain subject to a fine not exceeding \$100. Those who own, manage, operate or control a place where face coverings are required and do not comply with the ordinance remain subject to a fine not exceeding \$250.

Water Treatment Facility

HDR Engineering presented a breakdown to the City Council Jan. 25 of possible alternatives to treatment of water sourced from Mozingo Lake that could aid in the taste and odor issues Maryville has been facing.

During and after the presenta-

A Maryville city ordinance from 2012 describes the zoning requirements for Campus Town Overlay District, which allows for both sororities and fraternities to have a house with members.

In the ordinance, under section 2, the only requirement listed for sorority and fraternity housing is that the property — listed as a group residential use property — provides at least 850 square feet of site area per resident.

No sorority to this day has made an attempt to acquire their own house on campus.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

tion, City Council members discussed the necessity of a new water plant to meet the needs of the city. The intent to build a new facility passed in a 5-0 vote following HDR's recommendations.

The engineering company ended up recommending the construction of a new building with new technologies to address ongoing issues. The estimated cost for a new water treatment plant as advised by HDR sits between \$26 and \$32 million.

As mentioned in previous City Council meetings, McDanel once again said this project would be a significant financial investment for the city. The Jan. 25 vote did not solidify any financial obligation, but the project is intended to continue with larger steps in the near future.

Two weeks ago after a Jan. 11 City Council meeting, Lipiec said improvements in local water quality is the current city project he is most excited about.

"As I told Greg (McDanel), we're not necessarily looking for it to benefit you and I, we need to focus on 15, 20, 25 or 30 years down the road," Lipiec said. "We need to make the best decision based on what HDR has provided for us to not only take care of now, but take care of the future."

The official resolution describes the state of the current water facility, that while stable and operating, it is outdated and cannot perform tasks needed to tackle the ongoing issues with taste and odor Maryville citizens know all too well.

The city and Public Water Supply District 1 of Nodaway County will collaborate to take on the project with a comprehensive plan beginning with replacing lines on the distribution system.

## CITY COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM A1

Before the vote, councilman McDowell explained why he was going to vote no. He said there's been a lot of talk among citizens about Maryville having a mask mandate with the guidance of county-wide numbers. He said he would like to see data more specific to the city.

"My vote is going to be 'no,' in hopes that... the health department take the lead and be more concise, I guess, with its action instead of piecing it all together," McDowell said.

"I think they are not going to do that," Councilwoman Rachael Martin said. "I think we're in a position where we have to say 'what can we do that we know to be effective' and we can continue the mask mandate and it can be helpful."

The conversation continued through Patterson, who stumbled over some of his words when all eyes kept focused on him — the county's top health official. He said enforcing a county-wide mask mandate doesn't make sense, but continuing one in Maryville does.

After some prodding from Martin, he said he supported the extension, but explained the county's vision for the coming months.

"We're focused on vaccines, we are focused straight ahead," Patterson said. "So we're asking our communities, our partners, our organizations... to continue practicing our mitigation efforts. There's no reason to give up now. We're getting better, we're getting closer to a lot better picture. There's no reason to quit now."

Councilman Matt Johnson asked Patterson about vaccine availibili-

ty in the coming months, a question that Patterson is still figuring out the answer to for the health department and the county. He explained that while he expects about 50-60% of Nodaway County's population to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, it will be a while before all the supplies will be available.

The 50-60% is an estimate for how many could receive the vaccine in a six month time frame, a goal he said is focused on knocking down the COVID-19 infection rate in a sustainable manner.

"It's not going to take vaccinating everybody, just enough of them," Patterson said.

Patterson said a lot of news talking about vaccine distribution can project the idea that if there isn't a high vaccination rate close to 100%, that it's a failure on the health department. This remains false, Patterson said, because the approach health officials take with vaccines to begin with is making a dent, no matter how small at first, in the number of people infected.

Even with flu vaccines, Patterson said, the county averages close to 35% of citizens vaccinated and the state of Missouri averages about 45%.

Hearing all this, Martin asked Patterson what the City Council could do to help the health department reach its goals and keep Maryville citizens safe.

"Keep doing what we're doing," Patterson said. And he repeated this mantra throughout his input for the City Council prior to their vote.

On perhaps one of the most controversial issues the five sitting City Council members have faced during their time in local government, a 3-2 split reflected the complexity

of the situation. Patterson and Councilwoman Rachael Martin voted in favor of the extension, while Councilman Matt Johnson and Councilwoman Rachael Martin voted against it.

During and after the presenta-

# FOR THE CULTURE: Diverse attendees needed at events

CORBIN SMITH  
Columnist  
@curly\_corbis



On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional for public schools to be racially segregated. Nearly 67 years have passed, but do we see much of a difference?

I'm not saying Black people are failing to get accepted at predominately white institutions because I'm obviously at one, but it seems like we get to one and then we just disappear. Black people kind of just melt away into the background of PWI's, or at least that's how I feel at Northwest.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day fell on Jan. 18 this year, and Northwest's Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted an MLK week to honor the late civil rights leader. This included historical movie nights, a community service event and even a Juneteenth-based celebration. Upon hearing about this, I was excited because the campus could learn about Black history, or better yet, real American history.

But as the week rolled by, I was a little disappointed by the turnout.

Due to schedule conflicts, I was only able to attend the movie nights followed by discussions. For some reason, I expected to see seats filled with eager eyes and insightful minds. In reality, I was met by relatively empty rooms with chairs awaiting tenants who never came.

At the time, I was happy to see at least some people came out to discuss such difficult topics, but in hindsight, I don't understand why there weren't more students at these easy-to-attend events.

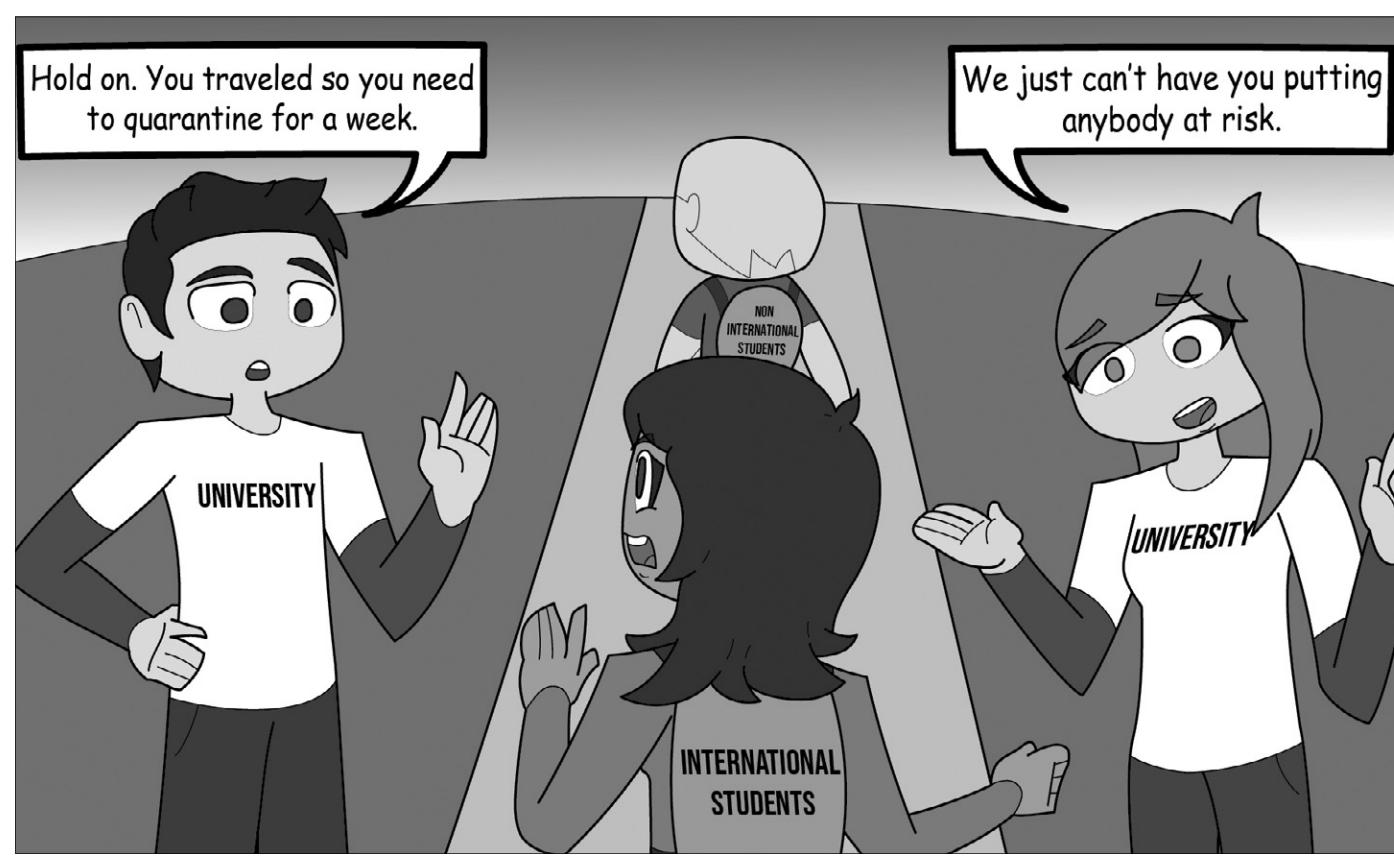
From what I've experienced being part of Northwest's Black community, we want more events that will attract people of color. The community wants more organizations, more discussions, more inclusion on campus. So, when there was a whole week dedicated to such a monumental Black figure, where were all of the people?

I already feel like Northwest is predominately white enough, so it didn't help when I saw more white people at these events than those who belong to the community these gatherings aim to celebrate.

In 2017, Northwest's student body was 81% white and 6% Black, so it's not hard to feel outnumbered. Now, don't get me wrong, the reason we have these conversations is to help educate people of all races with intentions of bettering interracial relations everywhere. It's nice to have non-Black students attend, but who will they learn from if they share their same, outsider experiences with each other?

The Black community on campus, myself included, needs to be more accountable in showing up to these events. College is a very busy time for many people, but we should be assisting in making the campus a bit more integrated for current and future Black Bearcats.

Seeing such strong Black student leadership in my year and a half as a Bearcat, I think there is a lot of potential for greatness. Behind Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallet and Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion N'ninah Freelon, we're on the path to bringing more Black influence on campus.



## OUR VIEW:

# Isolation guidelines only hurt international students

As seems to be the norm with the coronavirus, inconsistent guidelines and rules have unfairly restricted some while allowing others to roam free and put those around them at risk. No process more perfectly exemplifies this issue than Northwest's, and many other institutions, isolation rules with returning international students.

International students have spent much of the last 10 months behind the proverbial eight ball because of the coronavirus. Many cannot leave the country because they will simply not be allowed back in; the visa system is a mess — it actually was pre-virus too — and there is still the ever-present struggle of living in a different country than your loved ones.

Now, these students have to deal with another setback as they are forced to quarantine for the first few weeks of classes if they chose to travel home.

The issue is not that students are being forced to quarantine. The University is following guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on international travel. The problem is that only international students are being held to this standard.

It should be clear to everyone who has paid even the most minuscule amount of attention to the pandemic that the U.S. has

done a rather poor job of just about every aspect of limiting the spread. Infection rates and fatalities do appear to be going down around the U.S. after they peaked at the end of 2020, but the U.S. is far from out of the woods. The "land of the free" makes up 25% of the world's COVID-19 cases and 20% of the world's virus fatalities despite making up around 4% of the world's population.

The same poor job can be attributed to the four-state region — which includes Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa — where a large percentage of Northwest students are from. There were many times as recently as December and January where the COVID-19 map for the Midwest resembled a Jackson Pollock painting if Pollock decided to only use dark orange and red.

The U.S. has messed up in many ways in regard to handling the pandemic. For example, masks are not widely worn in many areas of the country — including places with mandates like Maryville. Vaccine distribution has been run by people that must believe the Department of Motor Vehicles is efficient. And at the beginning of this fiasco, early warning signs of the pandemic were ignored by state and federal leaders who apparently don't understand how governing is supposed to work.

Many students returning home over break went back to designated hot spots, places that had their highest infection rates right in the middle of winter break.

Some Bearcats undoubtedly spent extended periods of time not distanced and maskless around countless others in areas where a mask mandate has never been brought forth, much less implemented.

They would have just as much of a chance, if not more, of being exposed and exposing others to the virus as an international student traveling to their home country. The U.S. is not a world leader in terms of COVID-19 mitigation and this rule acts as if it is in the pantheon of pandemic response.

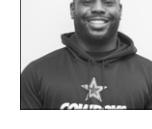
The current University policy is akin to telling someone they can't come in the house because they may bring dirt in from their car while allowing the guy who just went mudding to stroll through the living room.

If Northwest believes that students traveling could bring the virus back with them and be a danger to others, then the rule should apply universally to all students. If not, then no one should have to self-isolate. The current policy further disenfranchises a student population that has perhaps been most harshly affected by the coronavirus.

## YOUR VIEW:

### Do you think Northwest should enforce self-isolation for international students who traveled over break?

ZERRYN GINES  
Senior  
Finance



"No, they shouldn't. They will be wearing masks just like everyone else. To single them out from all students is bias at its finest."

SKYLAR RAUCH  
Senior  
Communications and  
Public Relations



"No, I don't think they should. Masks are effective, and social distancing rules are in place. If people follow the rules, we should all be fine. People traveling also know to limit their exposure with other people."

JAKE SAYRE  
Senior  
Agriculture



"No, they should not have to because they will take the safety precautions needed while traveling since they would like school to remain in session just like everyone else."

## THE STROLLER:

# Your Bearcat is infatuated with snow

Just when you didn't think Maryville could get any whiter, we got like eight inches of snow, and I'm here for it. Sure the pristine pale snow is already turning the color of a sewer root beer float, but even brown sludgy snow is still snow. This frozen water makes everything better.

Snow makes every single road trip an adventure. Before the blizzard, I would drive around Maryville in the same boring monotonous pattern encountering the same things. It was like replay-

ing the same terrible track in Mario Kart — Shy Guy Beach — over and over. Seemingly an eternity of time was wasted stuck behind some minivan with a Spoof hounds bumper sticker that always had to turn left on Main Street as a shift change happened at Kawasaki.

Now, I get to almost die every time I get in my car; it's like gambling with my life. I think my favorite game might be trying to guess ahead of time which random streets get plowed every 15

minutes and which ones haven't been touched since the football team won a national title.

Possibly the best part of snow is that my feet are constantly damp. I mean, each step in the Paris of Nodaway County ends with snow up to my shins and the frozen water permeating every piece of fabric on my shoes. It's like a free workout. And after I finally reach my destination, I get rewarded with moist socks that won't dry no matter how long I'm inside. I've heard hypothermia is

a great way to lose limbs, which means I'm technically on a weight loss program walking around with my not waterproof tennis shoes.

So I'll keep enjoying the weather. Maybe I'll assert my dominance over winter by wearing shorts next time I'm out. Nothing says I'm an alpha like wearing middle school gym shorts in January.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

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# Girls use break to rest ahead of tough tournament

CORBIN SMITH  
Sports Reporter | @curly\_corbs

After a congested week of high-level matchups, Maryville girls basketball (12-1) was gifted with a break from competition. This hiatus came after the Spoofhounds' Jan. 21 matchup against Bishop LeBlond (12-4) was postponed to Feb. 3 due to COVID-19 related issues.

Coach Quentin Albrecht was glad to give his girls a much-needed break after previously playing such a dense schedule, including four games in six days.

"I think the girls really needed it," Albrecht said. "I think after that long week last week and going down to Hamilton (Penney), I think the little break is going to be good for us. I don't think a few days of no competition is a bad thing."

Even teams on a hot streak like Maryville can't escape the inevitable mid-season aches and pains. With a few days off, Albrecht said his team will be ready to play in time for this season's Cameron Tournament Jan. 25-30 in Cameron, Missouri..

Senior forward Emily Cassavaugh used her days off to rehab her shoulder and increase her basketball intelligence, specifically on a day with heavy snowfall.

"Since we couldn't get in the gym, I was just watching some film," Cassavaugh said. "I saw what I could improve on; I saw other teams and what I can do to prepare for them."

In last year's tournament, the 'Hounds fought their way to the championship game but narrowly lost to Smithville. This year, Maryville enters the tournament as the No. 1 seed and hopes to complete a goal set at the beginning of the year.

"We've set a goal to win every tournament we go to," Albrecht said. "We were fortunate to win the Savannah Tournament. We went out to the Holiday Tournament at



## UP NEXT

**MHS @ Cameron Tourney**  
Jan. 25-30  
Cameron, Missouri

Doane in Crete, Nebraska, and won that, so they want to win this one."

With complications related to the coronavirus, the tournament field was reduced to five teams. Accompanying Maryville, the Cameron Tournament will host Smithville, Chillicothe, Cameron and Northeast (Kansas City), which are seeded second through fifth, respectively.

"Unexpectedly, one of the teams got taken out, but I still feel like there's a lot of competition," Cassavaugh said. "The Cameron Tournament has always been good competition with a lot of good teams in it."

With the tournament being played as single-elimination, the 'Hounds will have a good chance at simulating the feeling of post-season action without the implications of postseason games. Despite this type of tournament play, Cassavaugh is taking these games no differently than she would outside of a tournament.

"I view these games the same way," Cassavaugh said. "I just know that if we lose, we don't get to play another game, and you always want to play a game. I always play as hard as I can and just hope that we win or do whatever we need to get further."

Maryville aims to continue its hot streak by way of a Cameron Tournament trophy, but it won't be easy with the teams the Spoofhounds potentially have to face. However, Albrecht has confidence that his team can get the job done.

"They've had a little time, but the girls are always ready to go," Albrecht said. "It's a really good tournament, and I think anybody can win it. However, if we can play like we have been, I feel pretty good about our chances."

Senior guard Jaelyn Haggard is playing fewer minutes, as she is build-



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest women's basketball senior guard Mallory McConkey drives into the lane in during the Bearcats' Jan. 21 game against Newman. The Bearcats won 57-47, marking their first win of 2021.

# Bearcats hope road stretch gives needed momentum

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Northwest women's basketball entered 2021 looking to move past the first half of the season, time in which true freshman forward Jillian Fleming and redshirt freshman Emma Atwood were out due to injury. Those obstacles were accompanied by multiple postponements on behalf of the women after having at least one positive COVID-19 test among the program.

However, 2021 continues to put adversity on the Bearcats. More positive COVID-19 cases within the Bearcat program postponed its second and third game in the new year. Northwest senior guard Kylie Coleman suffered an ACL injury Jan. 19 against Emporia State, one that effectively ended her season.

The inconveniences made Northwest coach Austin Meyer switch rotations, including a starting lineup that included three freshmen Jan. 23 against Central Oklahoma.

Senior guard Jaelyn Haggard is playing fewer minutes, as she is build-

ing back her stamina from being out due to COVID-19. Freshmen are tallying key minutes, particularly guard Molly Hartnett, who played 38 of the 40 minutes against Central Oklahoma.

While Northwest has faced hardships, 2021 showed some hope for good things to come. The Bearcats picked up a 57-47 win over Newman Jan. 21 in Bearcat Arena, their first victory since Dec. 12.

The 'Cats are coming off three games in five days, a stretch that began Jan. 19. The slate proved to be a challenge for the freshmen, but Meyer is proud of what he's seeing from his underclassmen.

"They're giving us everything. A couple of them with CK (Caely Kesten) and Jillian (Fleming), they just need extended practice time, which they haven't had, and time to be on the floor," Meyer said. "They play extremely hard. ... They're all really good players. Jillian is probably playing a lot more right now than we would've anticipated coming off an injury, but with the injuries we've had, they're thrown into the mix."

A lineup consisting of three

## UP NEXT

**NW @ Lincoln**  
5:30 p.m. Jan. 28  
Jefferson City, Missouri

freshmen and one sophomore would be detrimental for some teams, but fighting down to the wire against Emporia State and picking up a win at home proved the Bearcats are continuing to gel.

"We (underclassmen) feel like we fit in really well. I mean, the team welcomed us with open arms," Hartnett said. "Everybody competes and everybody works for those minutes, and Meyer just gives us the opportunity to get in there."

It doesn't get easier anytime soon for Northwest, with another three games in five days on the horizon. This time the 'Cats will venture away from Bearcat Arena. The slate begins Jan. 28 in Jefferson City, Missouri, to face Lincoln.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

# 'Hounds aim to ride hot streak into Cameron tourney

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Maryville boys basketball has not been able to find consistency in the month of January, as the Spoofhounds entered their matchup with the 2018 Class 3A Iowa State champion Glenwood Rams Jan. 16 with a 2-2 overall record in the month.

A 78-70 victory against the Rams boosted Maryville's confidence. The 'Hounds hoped the win would pave the way for a winning streak and create an identity they've been trying to form all year.

However, Savannah (7-7) had a goal of its own, and that was to hold bragging rights in the High-way 71 rivalry, something it hasn't



done for the past 17 matchups against the Spoofhounds.

Unable to match the intensity of the Savages, the Spoofhounds (7-5) fell behind 8-0 early in the first quarter, with Savannah junior Quay Jeter keeping his foot on the pedal throughout the night, ending with 18 points and helping Savannah capture a 51-33 victory Jan. 22 in Savannah, Missouri.

A lot of frustration was felt within the Spoofhounds, as 6-foot-9-inch senior center Marc Gustafson had trouble establishing his dominance down low due to Savannah collapsing in the post any time the ball touched his hands.

Maryville coach Matt Stoecklein knew some irritation would follow his team back on the bus ride home, but he didn't want his team

to blame each other.

"We have to bring our best effort every game. We have to be on each other's sides," Stoecklein said. "You know, when someone makes a mistake, you go up to that person and say, 'You got it next time. You're all right.' Instead of getting on each other and getting upset with each other, we got to be each other's biggest fans."

Now sitting at 3-3 in January, the Spoofhounds needed to learn how to move on from a tough loss, while keeping each other motivated. That opportunity came Jan. 26 in the 33rd Annual Cameron Tournament, where the No. 4-seeded Spoofhounds took on the No. 5 seed, Chillicothe (7-4).

Trailing 15-12 at the end of the first quarter, Maryville did not want to replicate the imperfections present against Savannah. Sophomore guard Keaton Stone, determined not to let his team fall down the same path, helped the Spoofhounds to a 24-21 lead at the break with a team-high 7 first-half points.

Stone ended up with a team-high 12 points for the night. While Stone's points were huge, the biggest points came with 1 minute and 45 seconds remaining in the matchup, when the Spoofhounds lead 43-42.

Senior guard Caleb Kreizinger waited in the left corner as his teammates passed the ball side-to-side, taking their time with the lead. As Chillicothe's defense became stagnant, Kreizinger snuck his way to the top of the key, drilling a 3-pointer that put a dagger in the Hornets.

"Caleb Kreizinger was just a beast tonight. I thought our two leading scorers, Keaton and Caleb, finished strong and took great shots," Stoecklein said. "They left them open at the 3-point line and both those boys hit two threes."

While it was a low-scoring game for the Spoofhounds, they weren't looking to shoot every shot opportunity that presented itself. Instead, Stoecklein wanted his team to remember their roles.

"We weren't stalling by any means, but what we've been trying to do the entire game was to move



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville boys basketball senior guard Caleb Kreizinger runs past Glenwood High School junior Jayme Fritts in their game Jan. 16. The Spoofhounds ended with a 78-70 win against GHS.

## UP NEXT

**MHS @ Cameron Tourney**  
Jan. 25-30  
Cameron, Missouri

the fact they want to be around each other and appreciate each other."

The win over Chillicothe advances the Spoofhounds to the semifinals in the Cameron Tournament where they'll play against No. 1-seeded Battle (8-5) Jan. 28. The Spartans reign from Class 6 and are a new addition to the annual tournament.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

January 30, 2021 - 11:00am

Northwest Missouri State University

Start at the flags by Fine Arts Building



## MARCH FOR LIFE

All are welcome to march with us on campus for the right to life for ALL!

Follow our Facebook event for more updates:


SCAN ME

Contact Samantha Fortik (5532485) with questions.

Hosted by Students for Life - Northwest

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to the ball) from side-to-side. They did that; they executed it very well," Stoecklein said. "They were looking for the best shot for the team and not necessarily the best shot for them. We passed up shots that I think kids might have normally taken, and we got a better shot because of it."

The Spoofhounds are above .500 in January, now standing at 4-3. Not only does a win help Maryville's record, but more importantly, it brings the team closer together.

"A win like this just makes you appreciate being with these boys together on the bus ride back. Friday's night ride back was not pleasant, but tonight they're more cheerful,"

Stoecklein said. "They're happy to be around each other. We're going to have a team dinner tomorrow. It's



# SPORTS

Jan. 28, 2021 | @NWMSports

## Can 'Cats win it all?

That, and more, answered in this week's Walk The Talk.  
see [nwmissourinews.com](#)

## Fire away

NW men expect each team's best shot on road trip.  
see A7

# THE EDWYN BROWN STORY



SUBMITTED

Northwest football junior Edwyn Brown poses for a picture after regaining consciousness. Brown was unconscious for nearly three weeks due to doctors at three hospitals not being able to provide any diagnosis.



SUBMITTED

Edwyn Brown is helped upright in an attempt to regain strength in his lower body. The Northwest football junior finished inpatient physical therapy Jan. 15 at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago.

## How a migraine turned into a harrowing fight for life

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor I @ByJonWalker

**A**fter spending three years at Eastern Illinois, Edwyn Brown transferred to Northwest ahead of the spring semester of 2020 with hopes of being able to aid the University's football program to its seventh national title the following fall.

Ed Brown's time at Eastern included a redshirt year as a freshman, eventually working his way up to a starter during his first season of on-the-field action but missing nearly half of his sophomore season due to injury.

Due to COVID-19, Ed Brown's on-campus experience was minimized due to Northwest moving to an online-only format for the remainder of the semester, a mandate that was set in place less than eight weeks after he arrived in Maryville.

There was excitement for the season, he said, not knowing the pandemic would continue long enough to jeopardize his first snaps in a Northwest uniform. And after a rollercoaster of decisions from the MIAA regarding the fate of football seasons among the league, Ed Brown was readying to dress in a Northwest uniform for the first time in Bearcat Stadium Nov. 7 against Washburn.

That scrimmage was canceled two days before taking place, and so was the Bearcats' scrimmage set for Nov. 21 against Central Missouri.

Less than a week after Ed Brown was supposed to don the Bearcat green, he started developing severe migraines.

"His mom called me on a Friday and said, 'Ed's had a history of migraines. He's not feeling well. He won't go to the emergency room. It's kind of escalated; will you take him?'" Northwest football coach Rich Wright said. "At the time, I was in COVID quarantine, so I couldn't."

"I called him and hoped he answered because I didn't want him to be like, 'OK, why is this mom calling me? What's going on?'" said Renysha Brown, Edwyn's mother. "It was nothing like that at all. He called back; I told him what I needed — I think I actually sent him a text message as well — when he called, I was like, 'Look, I just need you to get over there

before he needs help. I need you to go now.'"

Elizabeth Hevern, the team's athletic trainer, took Ed Brown to the emergency room Nov. 13 at Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville, where doctors began to speculate the athlete had come down with the coronavirus.

That's the last thing Ed Brown remembers.

Ed Brown was at Mosaic for roughly 48 hours before his illness was beyond the capacity of the hospital, Wright said. When it became too much to treat inside Nodaway County, he was transferred to the Mosaic Medical Center in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Following a brief five-day stay in St. Joseph, doctors decided there wasn't an adequate treatment for him there either, effectively leaving no option but another transfer — this time to Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

After 20 days unconscious, including stays in three different hospitals, he finally woke up.

"I went to sleep in Maryville and woke up in St. Louis," Ed Brown said.

Ed Brown missed Thanksgiving with his family, and instead spent it laying in a hospital bed, unaware of the world around him. While he was upset to miss time with his family, remaining in the hospital for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, he's more so upset about completely missing Nov. 22 — his 21st birthday.

"While we were all looking at our own situations and not having holidays the way they normally were, Ed spent them in the ICU," Wright said. "It puts things in perspective. ... It's difficult to sit there and have Christmas Day and know that someone you care about and is a part of your family is sitting in a hospital."

"I was just out for my birthday," Ed Brown said. "I don't think I woke up until Dec. 3, so I had all of the balloons and stuff in my room."

It was a moment he simply described as frightening.

"My first memory is just waking up and trying to pull that tube out of my mouth," Ed Brown said. "All I'm hearing is them yelling, like, 'No. No. No. No.'"

He wasn't sure what was going on, and neither were the doctors. During his time unconscious, he suf-

fered from seizures, swelling of the brain and spine, collapsed lungs, losing feeling in his arms and legs, and a possible stroke, but doctors said scans were too inconclusive to officially give that diagnosis.

The tube in his mouth — the one Ed Brown tried to pull out amid his first moments awake after not knowing the world for nearly three weeks, and the one that was placed in his neck to avoid any other attempts at taking it out of his mouth — served as a feeding tube and method for ventilation. For the most of three weeks, it was his lifeline.

His awakening, he said, came about from the medical staff at Barnes-Jewish replacing the plasma in his body.

"Man, it's just — it's beyond me, to be honest," Ed Brown said. "Thanks to God for it."

To this day, no doctor has given Ed Brown or his family a diagnosis for the illness that upended their lives.

Despite her son fighting through something that nobody could discover, Renysha Brown said she wasn't in an unfamiliar position. She's a veteran, previously serving in the United States' military for 28 years.

"I approached the situation, once I saw how serious it was, as if it was a deployment, I guess, in many respects," Renysha Brown said. "I think that's probably the closest I can really and truly attribute it to. ... When you mobilize in the military and you send them on a deployment, you separate someone from their friends and family, and you send them to whatever spot needs the attention."

She was forced to turn relatives away from the hospital due to COVID-19 and ICU limitations, but it wasn't a new feeling. She was used to being away from family for the better part of three decades while serving in the military.

One of the hardest parts of the whole process, she said, was feeling the heartbreak that accompanied all of the other overwhelming emotions while watching her son suffer. But she'd never let him know it.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINews.COM](#)

## BY THE NUMBERS

>\$1,000,000  
Estimated medical bills

\$32,365

Raised on GoFundMe as  
of Jan. 26

63

Days spent in the hospital

20

Days spent unconscious

3

Number of hospitals Ed  
Brown stayed in